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AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PANAMA
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 KINGSTON 7518
E.O. 12065: GDS 10/8/86 (JDFORBES) OR-P
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JM
SUBJECT: PNP ANNUAL CONFERENCE
1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. THE ANNUAL PNP CONFERENCE CONCLUDED OCTOBER 5 WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATE OF ELECTIONS TO A CROWD OF PERHAPS 30,000 IN MONTEGO BAY. KUDOS WERE EXTENDED TO FOREIGN DELEGATES, NOTABLY CUBA AND THE SOVIET UNION. MANLEY'S SPEECH (REPORTED SEPTEL) BROKE NO NEW GROUND EXCEPT AT THE END. CUBAN AMBASSADOR ESTRADA HAD NO DIPLOMATIC RESERVATIONS IN DISPLAYING HIS OPEN SUPPORT FOR THE PNP. A LARGE JLP RALLY WAS HELD IN KINGSTON THE SAME EVENING. END SUMMARY.
3. THE FOLLOWING ARE OBSERVATIONS OF EMBOFF WHO ATTENDED PUBLIC SESSIONS OF PNP'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE AT THE INVIATATION OF THE PARTY.
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4. THE 42ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE PNP WAS HELD AT THE ROSE HALL INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL IN MONTEGO BAY ON OCTOBER 4-5. MORE THAN 2,300 DELEGATES ATTENDED, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM 18 FOREIGN POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND COUNTRIES.
5. THE CONFERENCE WAS CHIRED BY PARTY CHAIRMAN AND MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY DUDLEY THOMPSON, WHO RETURNED LAST WEEK FROM A LENGTHY PERIOD OF CONVALESCENCE IN CUBA. [(WE UNDERSTAND FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE THAT THOMPSON NEEDS A CORONARY BY-PASS OPERATION BUT WAS NOT OPERATED ON WHILE IN CUBA.)]
6. CLOSED SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE WERE ADDRESSED BY GENERAL SECREATRY D.K. DUNCAN WHO DELIVERED THE ANNUAL POLITICAL REPORT AND DISCUSSED "ORGANIZING FOR VICTORY IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS," AND BY PARTY PRESIDENT

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AND PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY WHO ADDRESSED THE CONFERENCE ON "THE PRESENT SITUATION, REALITIES AND CHANLIENGES OF THE THIRD TERM." PUBLIC SESSIONS WERE ALSO HELD AT WHICH PARTY VICE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON PRESIDED OVER MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FROM FOREIGN DELEGATES. FORMER BRITISH LABOUR PARTY MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT DAME JUDITY HART SPOKE ON "PERSPECTIVES ON THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION" AND FINANCE MINISTER HUGH SMALL DISCUSSED "THE PRESENT STATE OF OUR NATIONAL ECONOMY." HART TOLD HER AUDIENCE THAT JAMAICA, IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS, WAS BATTLING NOT ONLY FOR SOCIALISM BUT ALSO FOR A NEW WORLD MONETARY ORDER. SHE ALSO READ A MESSAGE FROM LABOUR PARTY HEAD JAMES CALLAGHAN, DESCRIBING A PNP VICTORY AS CRUCIAL TO THE CARIBBEAN AND THE COMMONWEALTH.
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7. IN HIS REMARKS, SMALL LAMBASTED THE DAILY GLEANER ("THAT RAG") AND THE CIVIL SERVICE, STATING THAT UNTIL THE PRESENT THE PNP HAS BEEN IN OFFICE BUT NOT IN POWER BUT WILL EXERCISE POWER FOR THE PEOPLE IN ITS THIRD TERM. THE MEDIA SHOULD BE A TOOL OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE JAMAICAN PEOPLE SO THAT NATIONAL OGJECTIVES ARE NOT UNDERMINED FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. THE IMF ALSO CAME IN FOR A GOOD SHARE OF SMALL'S SKILLFUL RHETORICAL ATTACKS AS HE DESCRIBED THE RECENT ANNUAL IMF/IBRD MEETING IN WASHINGTON WHERE BANKERS IN THREE-PIECE, PIN STRIPED SUITS SPENT THEIR TIME AT COCKTAIL PARTIES OBLIVIOUS TO THE NEEDS OF THE STARVING AND BAREFOOT CHILDREN OF THE WORLD. (ONE FEMALE DELEGATE WAS OVERHEARD TO REMARK "HOW CANA LITTLE ISLAND LIKE JAMAICA SURVIVE AGAINST THE FORCES OF CAPITALISM AND IMPERIALISM.")

8. SOUNDING ANOTE OF FISCAL RESTRAINT, SMALL CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLEAR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PUBLIC SPENDING ANL PRODUCTION, SAYING THE GOVERNMENT IS NCT SANTA CLAUS. HE CALLED FOR REDUCED CONSUMER IMPORTS AND INCREASED LOCAL SUBSTITUTION. HE CITED PROGRESS IN EXPANDING THE BAUXITE SECTOR AND CALLED FOR IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION SO THAT JAMAICA CAN FEED ITSELF, CREATE NEW JOBS AND SAVE AS WELL AS EARN, FOREIGN EXCHANGE. SMALL CONDEMNED DIVISIVE TRADE UNIONS AND SAID JAMAICA CANNOT KEEP ON RAISING WAGES WITHOUT INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY.
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CREATING NEW JOBS RATHER THAN INCREASING
THE WAGES AND SALARIES OF THOSE WHO ALREADY HVE WORK
WILL RECEIVE HIGE PRIORITY. HE SAID JAMAICA WILL GET
HELP IN KIND FROM SOCIALIST STATES AND FROM LDCS WITH
SURPLUS CAPITAL WHO WILL EXTEND HELPING HANS TO JAMAICA
TO "STAND FIRM" IN ITS NEW ECONOMIC POLICY. HE PROMISED
HIS LISTENERS THAT "AFTER OUR LONG PERIOD OF SUFFERING
WE SHOULD GET OUR JUST AND EQUAL REWARD." SMALL FOUND
IT NECESSARY TO ENJOIN THE AUDIENCE FROM TAKING PROPERTY
FROM THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED HOTEL. ("IT IS A GREATER CROME
TO STEAL SOCIALIST PROPERTY THAN PRIVATE PROPERTY.")
9. THE CONFERENCE RE-ELECTED THE PRESENT SLATE OF PARTY
OFFICERS IN A RAPID PRO FORMA FASHION. MANLEY IS PRESIDENT,
P.J. PATTERSON - VICE PRESIDENT, RALPE BROWN - VICE PRESIDENT,
ANTHONY SPAULDING - VICE PRESIDENT (FOUR YOUTH), PORTIA SIMPSON-
VICE PRESIDENT (FOR WOMEN), DUDLEY THOMPSON - CHAIRMAN, D.K.
DUNCAN - GENERAL SECRETARY, PAUL ROBERTSON - DEPUTY GENERAL
SECRETARY (ADMINISTRATION), AND DEPUTY GENERAL SECREATRY
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(ORAGNIZATION) AND CLIVE DOBSON-TREASURER.
10. FOREIGN DELEGATIONS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING
WHICH EMBOFF WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY INCLUDED--CUBA. A FOUR-
PERSON DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY A NUMBER OF THE CENTRAL
COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (SEE HAVANA
7152 (NOTAL);
--SOVIET UNION. TWO-PERSON DELEGATION HEADED BY A
MEMBER OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND ACCOMPANIED BY
THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF.
-- GRENADA. REPRESENTED BY DEPUTY PRIME IMINISTER
BERNARD COARD.
-- IRAQ. REPRESENTED BY THE AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA
PETER YUSIF.
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-- ALGERIA. REPRESENTED BY TWO PARTY DELEGATES.
-- UK. REPRESENTED BY DAME JUDITH HART OF THE LABOUR PARTY.
-- CHILE. REPRESENTED BY A CHILEAN SOCIALIST LIVING IN MEXICO.
-- VIETNAM. REPRESENTED BY THE DRVN AMBASSADOR TO CUBA (WHO STONILY DECLINED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE REPRESENTING OFFICER'S BRIEF GREETING IN VIETNAMESE).
-- LIBYA
-- SWEDEN
-- NORWAY
-- WEST GERMANY (SPD)
-- PUERTO RICO (SOCIALIST PARTY OF PUERTO RICO)
-- YUGOSLAVIA
-- URUGUARY
-- DOMINICA
-- MEXICO
-- PNP AFFILIATES IN THE US (JAMAICAN PROGRESSIVE LEAGUE) AND THE UK.

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11. THE CROWNING EVENT OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE WAS THE PUBLIC GATHERING OF ALL 60 PNP CANDIDATES TO HEAR THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH (REPORTED SEPTEL) IN SAM SHARPE SQUARE. AN ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD OF APPROXIMATELY 30,000 FILLED THE SQUARE (MANLEY CLAIMED 140,000). ACCORDING TO THE SENIOR JLP SOURCE, THE PNP SPENT J$80,000 TO RENT FIFTY BUSES TO TRANSPORT SUPPORTERS FROM KINGSTON TO THE RALLY. THE CROWD WAS IN GOOD SPIRITS BUT WAS MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE REGGAE MUSIC, THE SINGING OF PARTY SONGS AND, OF COURSE, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTION DATE THAN THE SPEECHES AND INTRODUCTION OF THE CANDIDATES.

12. DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY ROBERTSON INTRODUCED EACH PNP CANDIDATE INDIVIDUALLY TO SUPRISINGLY LUKEWARM APPLAUSE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SEVERAL LOCAL CANDIDATES AND THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. MANLEY WAS GREETED ENTHUSIASTICALLY WHEN HE ARRIVED AND WAS LITERALLY LIFTED UP TEN FEET TO THE DAIS. PARTY VICE-PRESIDENT PATTERSON INTRODUCED FOREIGN DELEGATES, SINGLING OUT THE CUBAN AND THE SOVIET UNION FOR SPECIAL PRAISE. THE FOUR DIPLOMATS PRESENT FROM THE KINGSTON DIPLOMATIC CORPS (US, UK, CANADA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO) WHO WERE NOT ACCOMPANYING DELEGATIONS WERE NOT INTRODUCED. IN HIS REMARKS, PATTERSON RAN THROUGH THE ALPHABET OF GOVERNMENTS HE TOLD THE CROWD SUPPORTED JAMAICA'S STRUGGEL (INCLUDING OMAN AND WESTERN SAMOA), MENTIONING CANADA BUT NOT THE US OR THE UK.

13. MANLEY'S TWO HOUR SPEECH WAS DELIVERED WITH HIS USUAL FORCEFULNESS BUT WAS NOT UP TO HIS BEST EFFORT. HE

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SEEMED, HOWEVER, TO BE SPEAKING ABOVE HIS AUDIENCE, WHO WERE SURPRISINGLY UNRESPONSIVE TO THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS REMARKS. HE DID NOT USE JAMAICAN DIALECT, WITH WHICH THE AUDIENCE IN THE SQUARE WAS MOST FAMILIAR. HE WAS PLAGUED BY SOUND PROBLEMS AND

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THE JBC TELEVISION BROADCAST IN KINGSTON WAS JUMPY AND ERRACTIC. (THIS WAS CORRECTED THE NEXT EVENING WHEN A VIDEOTAPE OF THE SPEECH WAS BROADCAST.)

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14. MANLEY'S SPEECH CONTAINED LITTLE THAT WAS NEW. MUCH OF WHAT HE SAID WAS DEFENSIVE OF HIS POLICIES AND HIS COMMITMENT TO BUILD DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM IN JAMAICA. THE WHOLE EVENT WAS INTENDED TO GIVE THE PNP'S OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN A STRONG, INITIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST.
15. AT THE END OF HIS SPEECH, MANLEY ANNOUNCED THE DATE OF NOMINATION DAY, AND THE ROAR OF THE CROWD DROWNED OUT HIS NAMING THE DATE OF THE ELCTION (IT CAME ACROSS CLEARLY ON TELEVISION AND RADIO). FOR THE NEXT TWENTY MINUTES THOSE ON THE PLATFORM AND IN THE SQUARE DANCED TO THE PARTY'S 1976 AND 1980 RAGGAE SONGS, SHAKING THEIR FISTS IN THE AIR AND CELEBRATING THEIR LEADERS' CALL TO VICTORY. MANLEY CARRIED HIS JOSHUA'S "ROD OF DELIVERANCE" WHICH HE WAS GIVEN IN ETHIOPIA AND WHICH HE HAS USED IN PAST ELECTIONS AS THE SYMBOL OF TROUNCING THE OPPOSITION AND LEADING THE FAITHFUL "OUT OF BABYLON."
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16. CUBAN AMBASSADOR ULISER ESTRADA AND OTHERS FROM HIS EMBASSY LEFT NO DOUBT WHICH SIDE THEY SUPPORT. ESTRADA (WHO HAD BEEN MOVING FREELY ABOUT THE PLATFORM AND SIPPING RUM) RAISED HIS FISTS, DANCED AWAY AND SANG THE STAND FIRM SONG LUSTILY, EMPHASIZING THE PASSAGE "STAND FIRM AGAINST IMPERIALISM" FOR THE EARS OF THE WESTERN DIPLOMATS. ALL OF THE SOVIETS WERE IMPASSIVE EXCEPT FOR A YOUNGER OFFICIAL WHO VERY CAUTIOUSLY CLAPPED ALONG WITH THE MUSIC. THE VIETNAM AMBASSADOR STOOD FIRM (WITH THE PLATFORM SHAKING UNSTEADILY BENEATH HIS FEET), PROBABLY UNCOMPREHENDING OF THE LOCAL NUANCES AND DETAILS OF THE EVENING.
17. THE FOREIGN DELEGATES LEFT AT MIDNIGHT. A LIVE BAND WAS SET UP TO ENTERTAIN THE CROWD UNTIL DAWN.

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ON THE WAY BACK TO KINGSTON, THERE WERE SEVERAL RE-
PORTED INCIDENTS WITH JLP SUPPORTERS, ALTHOUGH THE
EVENTS IN MONTEGO BAY ITSELF WERE REMARKABLY PEACEFUL.
18. IN DOWNTOWN KINGSTON THE SAME EVENING, THE JLP
HELD A LARGE RALLY FOR ITS SIXTY CANDIDATES. ALTHOUGH
SEAGA CLAIMED THAT 150,000 WERE PRESENT, JLP GENERAL
SECRETARY BRUCE GOLDING CLAIMS PRIVATELY THAT ONLY
60,000 ATTENDED. THE TRUTH IS PROBABLY CLOSER TO
30,000. JBC GAVE LITTLE COVERAGE TO THE JLP EVENT.
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